

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

PROPOSAL

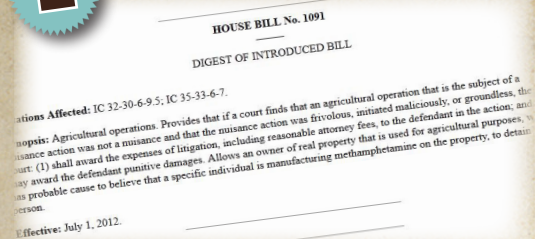
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A LAW BEGINS WITH AN IDEA FROM LEGISLATORS OR CITIZENS.

BILL DRAFT

2



THE IDEA IS WRITTEN IN LEGAL FORM.

FIRST READING

3



THE BILL IS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE OR SENATE AND SENT TO A COMMITTEE.

COMMITTEE REVIEW

4



THE COMMITTEE STUDIES THE BILL AND MAKES ANY CHANGES. THE PUBLIC MAY COME TO TESTIFY ON THE BILL.

COMMITTEE ACTION

5



IF THE COMMITTEE APPROVES THE BILL, IT GOES TO THE FULL CHAMBER.

SECOND READING

6



THE BILL IS GIVEN A SECOND READING, WHERE IT MAY BE AMENDED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

THIRD READING

7



THE BILL PASSES IF A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS VOTE FOR IT.

CONCURRENCE OR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

9



IF THE SECOND CHAMBER AMENDS THE BILL, THE FIRST CHAMBER HAS TWO CHOICES:

- IT CAN CONCUR IN THE CHANGES BY A MAJORITY VOTE, SENDING THE BILL TO THE GOVERNOR.
- IT CAN DISSENT FROM THE CHANGES AND SEND THE BILL TO A CONFERENCE COMMITTEE OF TWO SENATORS AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES. IF THE COMMITTEE'S COMPROMISE PLAN IS PASSED BY A MAJORITY OF BOTH CHAMBERS, THE BILL GOES TO THE GOVERNOR.

SECOND HOUSE

8



THE BILL REPEATS THE PROCESS IN THE OTHER CHAMBER. IF NO CHANGES ARE MADE BY THE SECOND CHAMBER, THE BILL GOES TO THE GOVERNOR.

GOVERNOR'S ACTION

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THE GOVERNOR MAY SIGN A BILL, VETO IT OR LET IT BECOME LAW WITHOUT HIS SIGNATURE.

VETOED BILLS MAY STILL BECOME LAW IF THE VETO IS OVERRIDDEN BY A MAJORITY VOTE IN BOTH THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE.